



# Whip Round Up

From the Office of the Assistant Democratic Leader



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## Reid for Nevada

### Reid Bill to Protect National Park System

- Senator Harry Reid introduced the Park Professionals Protection Act to prevent the privatization of our National Parks. While the Bush Administration intends to cut federal park service jobs and outsource positions to for-profit companies, Reid believes National Parks should be managed for posterity, not for profit.

### Senate Committee Approves Washoe Tribal Lands Bill

- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved a bill sponsored by Senators Reid and John Ensign to convey land at Lake Tahoe to the Washoe Indian Tribe for cultural purposes. This bill passed the Senate unanimously in 2000 and 2002 but has yet to be enacted into law.

### Reid Saves Hundreds of Nevada Jobs

- Flight attendants contacted Senator Reid when they heard that United Airlines intended to close its base at McCarran International Airport. Senator Reid contacted the president/CEO of the airline and reminded him of the importance of those jobs to the Nevada economy. United reversed its decision, and Senator Reid's intervention saved nearly 300 Nevada jobs.

### Working with Nevadans

- Lonnie Feemster, Steve Horsford, Lawrence Weekly, and Yvonne Atkinson Gates met with Senator Reid as part of an African American Leadership Conference sponsored by the Democratic Policy Committee. They discussed the challenges facing African-Americans in the current economic climate as well as how to communicate and work with Congressional leaders more effectively.
- Congressional Youth Leadership students Megan Peri, Yerington, Meredith Bennett, Incline Village, and John Little, Yerington, visited with Senator Reid.
- Senator Reid met with U.S. Institute of Peace student Christopher Jackson from Reno.
- Scleroderma Foundation representatives Gena Beam, Washoe Valley, and Cindy Nolen, Las Vegas, met with Senator Reid to discuss scleroderma, a disease that is usually fatal.



### Reid's Words...on the Prescription Drug Benefits bill

"Our senior citizens have worked hard to make this country great and few things weigh more heavily on their minds than the soaring cost of prescription drugs. That's why a comprehensive, meaningful and voluntary drug benefit for our senior citizens is among my highest priorities. The bill passed by the Senate this week provides assistance for tens of thousands of Nevada seniors. While this bill isn't the best we can do for our senior citizens, it's the best we can do today. It's a start that can be improved upon in the future. I won't stop fighting until we finish the job."



**Senator Reid pictured with Michelle Herrera (Las Vegas) 12 years old, Matthew Edgington (Reno) 7 years old, and Nick Taylor (London) 6 years old. The children were in Washington, D.C. to participate in the Children's Congress for Juvenile Diabetes. Nick and Matt became friends on the internet through the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.**

## Week in Review

- **Money for the Troops:** The Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved a bill to provide \$9.16 billion for military construction in 2004. In addition to designating funds for service-wide construction and the NATO security investment program, the bill adds more money for quality-of-life improvements for the troops and increases funds for the National Guard. Senator Landrieu (D-LA) was successful in adding an amendment to the bill for the construction of military charter schools. The bill will now go to the Senate floor.
- **Senate Commerce Committee Revamps FCC Authorization:** While the Senate Commerce Committee approved legislation this week to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), it also adopted a series of amendments to protect the public. Overall, the bill (with amendments) raises the fines the FCC may impose upon entities that violate its rules, forbids non-governmental entities from paying the travel expenses of FCC employees, strengthens the enforcement for indecent and obscene statements, and requires the FCC to review media-ownership rules every four years instead of every five.
- **Protecting Children with Disabilities:** The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions unanimously supported a bill to reauthorize educational services for America's 6.5 million disabled students. The bill was the result of a bipartisan effort to ensure special-education children who misbehave in school are not removed before it is determined whether the misbehavior was due to their disability. Although this legislation changes current law by allowing the child to now be removed from the classroom during a family's appeal of a suspension, the appeal period is shortened from 45 to 20 days, and the school can send the child to an alternative program during the suspension period.
- **Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits Bill Passes Senate:** After two weeks of work on a historic bill creating major changes to Medicare, the Senate voted to provide a voluntary prescription drug benefit. While efforts to eliminate the coverage gap and implement the reforms sooner were defeated, the bill does provide a start toward reducing monthly drug costs for seniors.

## INSIDER'S CALENDAR

- **June 30th - July 4th - Senate stands in recess in observance of the holiday**
- **Monday, July 7th - Senate convenes at 2:00 pm**
- **Monday - Senate may begin consideration of medical malpractice legislation**
- **No roll call votes will occur on Monday, July 7th**
- **Next roll call vote will occur on Tuesday, July 8th at 11:45 am**
- **Other possible legislation: Appropriations, Energy bill, and Genetic Discrimination**

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